

**Funding Opportunity #18293**  
**Grants Gateway # DOH01-PCSC4-2020**

New York State Department of Health  
Office of Primary Care and Health Systems Management  
Center for Health Care Policy and Resource Development  
Division of Workforce Transformation

***Primary Care Service Corps Loan Repayment Program***  
***(Round 4)***

**Questions and Answers**

**I. Introduction**

**Q1.** Is this DANY or something through the NHSC, or neither?

**A1. Primary Care Service Corps (PCSC) is a separate program from both Doctors Across New York and the National Health Service Corps.**

**II.A.2. Eligible Clinician Applicants - -Employment Start Date**

**Q2.** RFA (Page 2 – Item II.A.2.) indicates clinician must begin employment at intended worksite on or before May 1, 2020. Is there specific cutoff date of start prior to May 1, 2020 wherein the clinician would be disqualified? For instance, if a clinician has been employed at the work site prior to September 1, 2019, would that be disqualifying?

**A2. Primary Care Service Corps Round 4 does not disqualify a potential applicant based on start date at intended worksite. Relocators will receive additional points in scoring, but employees who have worked at the intended worksite are eligible to apply.**

**II.A.4. Eligible Clinician Applicants - Professional Status**

**Q3.** I am an LMSW I am very interested in this opportunity; however, I see that it lists LCSW's and LMHC's as eligible. I am trying to figure out if it matters that I will obtain my LCSW in March 2020. Also, would being a Licensed Master Social Worker make me eligible, being that it is similar to being a Licensed Mental Health Counselor?

**A3. You are eligible to apply. Licensed Master Social Workers are *not* eligible for the PCSC, however Licensed Clinical Social Workers *are* eligible for the PCSC. In order to qualify for the PCSC, an applicant must be**

licensed in an eligible profession, such as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, on the Award Date.

The Award Date will occur prior to the contract start date of May 1, 2020. The application submission should indicate the anticipated date of licensure. A photocopy of the license should be emailed to [sch\\_loan@health.ny.gov](mailto:sch_loan@health.ny.gov) as soon as it is received. If the license is issued before the Award Date, then you would be considered for an award. If the license is issued after the Award Date you will be placed on the waiting list. Applicants on the waiting list become eligible if awarded applicants elect not to execute the PCSC contract. (Therefore, additional funding becomes available.)

**Q4.** For applicants with several licenses and/or registrations, how should Attachment 4 be submitted?

**A4.** Applicants should assemble all relevant licenses and registrations together, scan them as a single, multi-page PDF no larger than 10MB, and submit that single multi-page pdf as Attachment 4.

**Q5.** I am not currently licensed but expect to be licensed before May 1, 2020. What do I submit for Attachment 4?

**A5.** Please submit the following written statement as Attachment 4:  
“I am not currently licensed, but I applied for the license on {fill in date} and expect to be licensed before May 1, 2020.”

Please also be sure to indicate the license application date in response to Program Specific Question #7.

#### **II.A.8. Eligible Clinician Applicants - Overlapping Obligations**

**Q6.** I'm still under contract with the NHSC until the end of July 2020 and the proposed date for PCSC is May 1st, 2020. Will there be any leeway on contract start date such that I can finish the NHSC contract and then start a PCSC contract?

**A6.** In the situation you describe, it will not be possible to finish the NHSC contract and then start a PCSC contract in August 2020. It should be noted that the National Health Service Corps has provisions to consider current NHSC participants for Continuation Contracts, as described in the Application and Program Guidance document at:

<https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/NHSC/loan-repayment/lrp-application-guidance.pdf>.

## **II.A.9 Eligible Clinician Applicants - Worksite**

**Q7.** We currently operate 3 outpatient behavioral health clinics located in HPSA and are participating with the HRSA/NHSC loan repayment program. The application window typically falls only once per year in January/February. This grant indicates applications are accepted as of October 1, 2019. Since we are already a HPSA location, our eligible staff could apply for this new grant then, correct?

**A7.** Location in a HPSA does not make a site automatically eligible for PCSC Round 4 (or NHSC). To be eligible, a site must be listed as an NHSC Active or NHSC/NURSE Corps Active site on the HRSA Health Workforce Connector, <https://connector.hrsa.gov/connector/search>.

The HRSA Health Workforce Connector is updated annually, in late December, and the site status and score remain in effect until the scores are updated the following December. The status and score that currently appear for each site in the HRSA Workforce Connector shall remain unchanged for the entire PCSC application period (which ends on November 4, 2019).

Therefore, if the proposed worksite is listed as a NHSC Active or NHSC/NURSE Corps Active site “now” -- that is: any day between September 3, 2019 and November 4, 2019 -- it is eligible, and will continue to be an eligible site through the entire application period.

The site status may change after December 2019 (for example, a site may lose its NHSC Active status) however, the site would remain a valid site for PCSC since it was a valid site at the time of application.

**Q8.** Is the following site eligible for PCSC Round 4?

NYC Health and Hospitals/Queens  
82-68 164<sup>th</sup> Street  
Jamaica, New York 11432

**A8.** This site is not an Active NHSC or Active NHSC/NURSE Corps site, and therefore it is not eligible for PCSC.

Here is how to check/verify a site:

1. Go to this website: <https://connector.hrsa.gov/connector/>.
2. In the Location box, enter: Queens.
3. Queens NY, USA will appear as a choice.
4. Click on Queens NY, USA (which will select that choice and put it in the search box).
5. Press the [Go!] Button.

6. A list of all NHSC Approved Sites in New York State (centered on Queens) will appear in the Search Results on the Sites tab.
7. You will notice that the Queens Hospital site does not appear in the query result.
8. If you are concerned that you might be missing it in the query results (because it might have a different name, for example), you can click on Download Results (blue text in the top right corner of the Search Results box).
9. A dialog box appears asking “Do you want to open or save download.csv from connector.hrsa.gov?”
10. Click the [Open] button.
11. An Excel Spreadsheet will appear with all sites.
12. Click (for example) on the “M” at the top of Column M. This will select Column M (ZIP code).
13. Click Find & Select
14. Click Find...
15. Enter the relevant ZIP Code: 11432.
16. Excel will move to the first row that has a ZIP code of 11432.
17. The address does not match.
18. Click Find Next.
19. The address does not match.
20. Continue checking the address for each site in that ZIP code.
21. Since none of the rows have an address value of 82-68 164<sup>th</sup> Street and an NHSC Site Status (Row G) value of Active, that site is not an Active NHSC site, and therefore is not an eligible site for Primary Care Service Corps Round 4.

**Q9.** Are Correctional Facilities that are designated as site HPSAs – but not currently designated as NHSC Active or NHSC/Nurse Corps Active sites -- eligible sites for PCSC Round 4?

**A9. No.** Only NHSC Active or NHSC/Nurse Corps Active sites are eligible sites for PCSC Round 4. State Correctional Facilities with site HPSAs may become NHSC Active sites, if they submit an NHSC Site application to HRSA. However, given NHSC Site Application cycles, it would not be possible for a non-NHSC site to receive site designation before the PCSC application period ends.

## **II.B. Full Time or Part Time Employment**

**Q10.** Section II,A,9,B defines full time and part time clinical practice.

Does direct supervision of dental residents in an accredited dental residency program (general practice or pediatrics) qualify as direct patient care? These residents often do not have a dental license and must have an attending who is responsible for the care and who serves as the billing provider.

**A10. Supervision of Dental Residents is considered teaching. “Teaching (which includes mentoring and serving as a preceptor) at the approved service site shall not exceed eight (8) hours of the minimum 40 hours per week.” (Page 3, section II.B.)**

### **III.B.2 Application Limits**

**Q11.** We are a provider network with several health center locations in the state. Does the limit of five applications apply to each individual health center site or to our network as a whole?

**A11. The limit is five applications per site. If an operator or network operates multiple sites, each site may have up to five awardees.**

### **IV.B. Question and Answer Phase**

**Q120.** I cannot access the grant information. I get an error message. Please advise.

**A12. Here is the link to the posting on the Department of Health webpage:**  
**<https://www.health.ny.gov/funding/rfa/18293/index.htm>**

**Here is the link to the Grants Gateway Portal**  
**[https://grantsgateway.ny.gov/IntelliGrants\\_NYSGG/module/nysgg/goportal.aspx](https://grantsgateway.ny.gov/IntelliGrants_NYSGG/module/nysgg/goportal.aspx)**

- Then Search Now! for: Primary Care Service Corps
- From the Grant Opportunity Portal, you can click on the button labelled [VIEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY]
- Then click the [Open] button to view the Funding Opportunity Document

### **IV.D. Applicant Webinar**

**Q13.** I am interested in attending the Primary Care Service Corps Loan Repayment Program (Round 4) applicant webinar. Can you tell me how to access it?

**A13. The link to view the recorded Webinar is:**  
**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BigFlha8CGc>**

**Note: click the SHOW MORE to view timestamps that allow you to jump to specific parts of the video.**

**Q14.** I am interested in attending today’s webinar for the Primary Care Service Corps Loan Repayment Program (Round 4). The RFA states that the webinar is today at 1:30pm. I am requesting information to login/call in to today’s webinar.

**A14: See A13.**

**Q15.** I am unable to find the login information for today's 1:30 p.m. webinar on the Primary Care Service Corps Loan Repayment Program opportunity on the program's website (<https://www.health.ny.gov/funding/rfa/18293/index.htm>). Where can I find the information?

**A15: See A13.**

**Q16.** I am inquiring regarding the applicant webinar that was scheduled for yesterday. I was unfortunately unable to attend. Can you advise if this webinar was recorded and will be accessible at some point?

**A16: See A13.**

#### **IV.E. How to file an Application**

**Q17.** Can a nonprofit Article 28/FQHC directly apply for specific applicants or must a clinician apply on their own?

**A17. For PCSC, individual clinicians must apply for themselves, using their own (personal) Grants Gateway account. There is no mechanism for the employer facility to apply on the clinician's behalf. To register for an account, applicants should go, as indicated in Funding Opportunity I. Introduction, to this website:**

**<https://grantsmanagement.ny.gov/register-your-organization>.**

**Q18.** We have shared this funding opportunity with eligible licensed clinicians at our agency, however it seems they are unable to create their own grants gateway login. For this application, would we need to add our staff as users and submit applications on their behalf? Also, how can we access webinar at 1:30pm today? I don't see it listed here: <https://grantsmanagement.ny.gov/live-webinars>.

**A18. See A13 and A17.**

**Q19.** As noted on page 14 of the RFP, applications must be submitted online via Grants Gateway. It appears from the listing on Grants Gateway that this opportunity is only open to Individuals. As such, is it necessary for each person applying to create their own Grants Gateway account instead of applying under their respective organization?

**A19. See A17.**

**Q20.** This is for physicians to submit applications not hospitals, correct?

**A20. Physicians are not eligible for the Primary Care Service Corps, but the following professionals are:**

- dentists
- dental hygienists
- nurse practitioners
- physician assistants
- midwives
- clinical psychologists
- licensed clinical social workers
- licensed marriage and family therapists
- licensed mental health counselors

**In order to apply for the Primary Care Service Corps, the individual must obtain a Grants Gateway account, and submit the application. It is not possible for hospitals or other health care facilities to apply, nor is it possible for an individual employee of a health care facility to apply for PCSC by using health care facility's Grants Gateway account.**

#### **V.A.II. Program Specific Questions**

**Q21. Regarding Program Specific Question #4, where do I find the SFS Vendor ID Number (a.k.a. SFS Supplier ID Number)?**

**A21. The SFS Vendor ID Number is assigned when an applicant registers for the Grants Gateway. To view your SFS Vendor ID Number:**

- 1. Log in to Grants Gateway.**
- 2. Click on Organization(s).**
- 3. Read SFS Vendor ID Number from labelled SFS Vendor ID (it is on the tenth line). You may cut and paste the SFS Vendor ID Number to your application, if desired.**

#### **V.A.IV. Budget**

**Q22. I'm currently a doctoral counseling student and I am making payment on my doctoral student loans. Can I submit these loans for this round? Or must I complete this degree before applying to this loan repayment program?**

**A22: The eligible student debt an application has at the time of application is what is eligible for reimbursement. Student debt accrued after application is submitted is not eligible for loan repayment. Therefore, the amount of your current doctoral student loans – at the time of application – are eligible for loan repayment award.**

## **V.C. Review and Award Process**

**Q23.** When scoring applications, will you be looking at auto-HPSA scores as well as geographic HPSA scores?

**A23.** The score that will be used is the appropriate discipline score (Primary Care, Dental or Mental Health) that appears for the site in: <https://connector.hrsa.gov/connector/search>.

For AutoHPSAs, this score is the AutoHPSA score. For Non-AutoHPSAs, this is the “area” (geographic, Medicaid Eligible, etc.) HPSA score for the HPSA where the site is located.

**Q24.** We have a staff person who worked at our organization for several years as an RN but only recently became an NP. Will her start date at our approved site be the date she began work as an NP?

**A24.** Per RFA Attachment 7, the staff person would apply as a Retained clinician, not a Relocator. In order to qualify as a Relocator, the employee must have worked at a site that was not in a HPSA up until (or after) the cutoff date (September 3, 2019 for PCSC Relocators or December 27, 2018).

An NHSC Relocator is an applicant who, after seeing the NHSC posting, elected to relocate from a non-HPSA site to an NHSC Active site in order to participate in the NHSC LRP.

A PCSC Relocator is an applicant who, after seeing the PCSC posting on September 3, 2019, is electing to relocate from a non-HPSA worksite to an NHSC Active Site in order to participate in PCSC.

Extra points are awarded to Relocators in recognition of the fact that they have relocated their job site in order to participate in a Loan Repayment Program.

**Q25.** How competitive is this opportunity?

**A25.** It is anticipated that 35 awards will be made for Primary Care Service Corps Round 4.

**Q26.** How many applications were received in the prior round of competition?

**A26.** One hundred (100) Applications were received for Primary Care Service Corps Round 3.



**Q27.** How many applications were funded in the prior round of competition?

**A27. Twenty-four (24) applications were funded for Primary Care Service Corps Round 3.**

**Q28.** What is the likelihood of funding for an applicant who does not meet any of the Round 4 scoring preferences (dentist or relocater)? (RFA Page 27 - Attachment 7 Application Scoring Methodology)

**A28. The likelihood would depend on the characteristics of the clinicians who apply. If the applicants have the same characteristics and distribution as the applicants that applied for Round 3 (which had low numbers of dentists and Relocators), then the likelihood would be good. If the score bonuses for dentists, and Relocators alter the composition of the applicants, then the likelihood would be rather low. Since no-one -- including the administrators of the PCSC -- can predict the composition or number of applicants, all eligible clinicians are encouraged to apply.**